

COMMISSIONER’S JOURNAL

Monday Regular September 21, 2026

The Coshocton County Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, September 21, 2026 at 8:30 a.m. with Mr. Bob Bigrigg, Mr. Dane Shryock, and Mr. Gary Fischer. Also, in attendance was Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Mr. Chuck Ellis, Ms. Mary Fergali, WTNS, and Mr. Leonard Hayhurst, Tribune.

Approve Minutes

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the minutes from the last meeting as presented.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Litter Control 2nd Quarter Activity Report

Received the Activity Report for the Coshocton County Litter Control for 2nd Quarter 2026 with following items collected: 15 bags of trash, 33 tires, 1 water closet, 4 mattresses, and 2 chairs.

Rescind Employment Offer, Rachel Doles

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded Mr. Shryock to rescind the employment offer to Rachel Doles as she was unable to complete the pre-employment testing.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Tuscarawas Pavilion Rental-Becky Williams

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the Skip’s Landing rental contract for the Tuscarawas Pavilion from Becky Williams on September 26, 2026, for a birthday party from 3:00 – 6:30 PM.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

Employee Retirement, Rodney Taynor-Airport

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to accept the retirement from Mr. Rodney Taynor from the Richard Downing Airport effective 9/18/2026 at the request of Mr. Marty Dobson, Airport Manager.

Vote:	Bigrigg	yea
	Shryock	yea
	Fischer	yea

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Then and Now Certificates

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to affirm the following Then and Now Certificates which have been approved by County Administrator Mary Beck and certified by the County Auditor.

Then and Now Certificates				
VENDOR		AMOUNT	DEPARTMENT	APPROVED/AFFIRMED
Huntington Bank	<u>225-0100-526001 (Contract Services)</u>	\$1,920.74	CCC	9/15/2026 9/21/2026
The Dover Tank and Plate Company	<u>001-0110-521000 (Equipment)</u>	\$5,500.00	CCC	9/15/2026 9/21/2026
John Mattos IV	<u>250-0100-521000 (Equipment)</u>	\$10,639.18	CCC	9/15/2026 9/21/2026
ISSG Inc.	<u>001-0120-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICE)</u>	\$16,000.00	Auditor	9/16/2026 9/21/2026
ISSG Inc.	<u>001-0120-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICE)</u>	\$8,000.00	Auditor	9/16/2026 9/21/2026
Vote:			Bigrigg	yea
			Shryock	yea
			Fischer	yea

Transfers/Additional/Reductions

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to affirm the following Transfers/Additional/Reductions which have been approved by County Administrator Mary Beck and certified by the County Auditor.

FROM ACCOUNT	TO ACCOUNT	AMOUNT	APPROVED	AFFIRMED
Additional-Treasurer				
	403-0100-540001 (Other Expense- Land Bank DTAC)	\$28,997.24	9/14/2026	9/21/2026
Additional-Common Pleas				
	001-0221-521000 (Equipment)	\$1,300.00	9/14/2026	9/21/2026
Transfer-Engineer				
050-0100-526000 (CONTRACTS SERVICES)	050-0100-521000 (EQUIPMENT)	\$2,000.00	9/15/2206	9/21/2026
Additional-EMS				
	120-0100-521003 (Equipment-Grant)	\$12,091.00		
	120-0100-540002 (ODPS Training & Equip Grant)	\$5,279.00		9/21/2026
		\$17,370.00	9/16/2026	
Transfer-Hopewell				
080-0100-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	080-0100-521000 (EQUIPMENT)	\$2,400.00	9/17/2026	9/21/2026
Transfer-Hopewell				
080-0100-526000 (CONTRACT SERVICES)	080-0100-590000 (TRANSFER - OUT)	\$14,000.00	9/17/2026	9/21/2026
Transfer-Probate/Juvenile Court				
001-0240-511000 (OPERS)	001-0240-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	\$350.00		
001-0240-550400 (EXPENSE FOREIGN JUDG	001-0240-540000 (OTHER EXPENSE)	\$446.00		
		\$796.00	9/17/2026	9/21/2026
Transfer-Hopewell				
080-0100-590000 (Transfer Out Hopwell)	083-0100-409900 (Transfer In Hopewell)		9/17/2026	9/21/2026
Vote:			Bigrigg	yea
			Shryock	yea
			Fischer	yea

Public Hearing, White Eyes Township Road 1046 Road Vacation

At 9:00 a.m. a Pubic Hearing of the Road Vacation of all of TR 1046 and an unmaintained Alley south of Lots 15 & 16 as recorded in Claud Hamilton’s Add - Avondale, PB 1 (Trans) , Page 88, as distance of approximately 164 feet to the dead end of TR 1046 and all of the alley south of lots 15 & 16, as proposed by the White Eyes Township Trustees was held with the following people present: Commissioner Bigrigg, Commissioner Shryock, Commissioner Fischer, Mrs. Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager, Mrs. Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Chuck Ellis, Carol Hampton and Amy Hamilton, Larry Holmes.

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Public Hearing, White Eyes Township Road 1046 Road Vacation, Continued

Commissioner Bigrigg opened the matter for public comment regarding the proposed road vacation. Carol Hampton spoke on behalf of Amy, for whom she serves as mother and legal guardian. Ms. Hampton explained that the roadway provides the only legal access to farmland located on the opposite side of the creek. She expressed concern that vacating the roadway could result in that portion of the property becoming landlocked, which could decrease its value and limit the ability to separate or transfer the property in the future. She noted that the deed provides for rights-of-way and easements to pass with the property. John and Curt Wyler currently lease the property for farming purposes.

Ms. Hampton stated that she views the right-of-way as something that may not be needed on a regular basis but should remain available if access is required. She also noted that access is sometimes obstructed by vehicles belonging to an adjoining property owner. She expressed concern that losing the right-of-way could create a financial hardship if the property becomes landlocked. Ms. Hampton also referenced the drawing included with her correspondence and questioned the proposed vacations on both sides of the roadway.

Mr. Holmes questioned how the property would be divided among the adjoining property owners if the roadway were vacated. He stated that he did not see a problem with the current arrangement. Commissioner Shryock explained that, upon vacation, the centerline of the roadway would generally become part of the adjoining properties. County Administrator Mary Beck noted that the vacation would be reflected on the recorded plat map.

Mr. Holmes questioned whether the township was essentially relinquishing responsibility for the roadway and noted that the vacation did not appear to provide a direct benefit to him. Commissioner Shryock explained that future development of the property, such as constructing a garage, could be affected by the availability of access.

Commissioner Shryock stated that he had discussed the matter with Josh Kempf, Coshocton County Engineer and understood the roadway to be classified as a “paper alley,” meaning it is not maintained or funded by the State. He noted that the roadway has existed in this manner for 100 years or more. The Commissioners continued to discuss the potential effects of the proposed vacation and the access rights of the adjoining property owners.

Mr. Shryock made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fischer to approve the Road Vacation of all of TR 1046 and an unmaintained Alley south of Lots 15 & 16 as recorded in Claud Hamilton’s Add - Avondale, PB 1 (Trans), Page 88, as distance of approximately 164 feet to the dead end of TR 1046 and all of the alley south of lots 15 & 16, as proposed by the White Eyes Township Trustees.

Vote:	Bigrigg	nay
	Shryock	nay
	Fischer	nay

The Road vacation was denied.

Public Hearing, Tuscarawas Township, Alley Road Vacation

At 9:30 a.m. a Public Hearing of the Road Vacation of Alley, North of Graham Court, in Tuscarawas Township, Board of Trade, 5th Addition, P.B., Pages 29-31, being all of the alley, which runs adjacent to the East line of Lots 294-298, in the board of trade, 5th addition, P.B. 2, pages 29-31, Tuscarawas Township. It is the intent of this action to vacate all of the platted alley in this area. However, the Tuscarawas Township Trustees shall retain the right to own, operate, maintain, and expand, as necessary, the storm sewer system in the vacated alley was held with the following people present: Commissioner Bigrigg, Commissioner Shryock, Commissioner Fischer, Brooke Alverson, Clerk, Chuck Ellis, Lisa Mowery, Coshocton Metropolitan Housing.

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Public Hearing, Tuscarawas Township, Alley Road Vacation-Continued

Commissioner Bigrigg asked or public comment: Mrs. Mowery stated that if the road vacation was approved, she hopes that vehicles will not be driving in their grass area-as this has happened in the past.

Mr. Fischer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shryock to approve the Road Vacation of the Alley, North of Graham Court, in Tuscarawas Township, Board of Trade, 5th Addition, P.B., Pages 29-31, being all of the alley, which runs adjacent to the East line of Lots 294-298, in the board of trade, 5th addition, P.B. 2, pages 29-31, Tuscarawas Township. It is the intent of this action to vacate all of the platted alley in this area. However, the Tuscarawas Township Trustees shall retain the right to own, operate, maintain, and expand, as necessary, the storm sewer system in the vacated alley.

Vote:	Bigrigg	nay
	Shryock	nay
	Fischer	nay

The Road vacation was denied.

Sheriff Walters, Budget Discussion

At 11:01 a.m., Sheriff Walters, Beth Walsh, Administrator Services Director Sheriff’s Office, Captain Eric Demattio, and Captain Charles Udischas attended the Commissioners’ meeting to discuss the Sheriff’s Office budget and anticipated funding needs for the remainder of the year. Sheriff Walters and his staff explained that several unexpected and increased expenses are putting pressure on the department’s remaining budget, and they wanted to bring these concerns to the Commissioners’ attention early rather than waiting until the funds become exhausted.

One of the primary concerns is the department’s Axon Taser contract, which expires in November. The cost of the contract has approximately doubled and is now \$54,000 per year, with the County responsible for \$27,000 and the City paying the remainder. The Sheriff’s Office does not currently have sufficient funds set aside for the County’s portion. Sheriff Walters noted that maintaining the Taser program is a safety issue for officers, particularly in the event they are involved in an incident. The County previously entered into a longer-term Taser contract approximately five years ago, which helped save money, with a refresh planned at the halfway point.

The Sheriff’s Office has also made several cuts and changes in an effort to control expenses. NextTrack and GIS in the cruisers have been discontinued, as has Lexipol and the airport-related rental expense. The department has also moved toward leasing cruisers rather than purchasing them. Negotiations regarding the union are expected to begin soon. Fuel costs have increased significantly as well. The Sheriff’s Office cannot simply instruct deputies not to drive, and only approximately \$9,000 remains in the fuel budget. Beth Walsh estimated that an additional \$20,000 may be needed for County fuel expenses alone, not including the City’s portion. The department is limited to one vendor for fuel under its existing fuel contract.

Attorney and arbitration bills have also placed additional strain on the budget. Approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 is expected to be owed for union arbitration matters. In addition, the department has not replaced the third dispatcher position on third shift as a cost-saving measure. Beth explained that salaries and overtime are already running high, making it difficult to determine exactly how much additional funding will ultimately be needed. She wanted to give the Commissioners an early warning so they could begin discussing the issue rather than addressing it at the end of the year when options may be more limited.

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The Sheriff noted that the department essentially flatlined its budget in January in an effort to save positions, but it is still facing a shortfall. He also explained that several miscellaneous expenses have affected various accounts. Funds from OVI-related activities have decreased over the years, providing less revenue to offset expenses. She noted that OVI testing is now conducted through urine testing rather than breathalyzer testing. The combination of the Taser contract, attorney and arbitration bills, increased fuel costs, and higher salary expenses—particularly around the holidays—has caused the department's available funds to become increasingly limited.

The Sheriff's Office would also like to restore the third-shift dispatcher position. The department indicated that it is comfortable with the associated pay. The office has also moved to a five-day work week, which has helped reduce some overtime costs. Beth explained that additional funding will likely be needed for wages, fuel, and the Taser contract, although she could not yet provide the Commissioners with a specific dollar amount. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director noted that, based on the month-end figures and current account balances, the department appeared to be generally on budget for the year. Beth acknowledged that there were small amounts available in various accounts but said it was difficult to determine what would be needed without knowing how the remaining expenses would develop. Robin noted that without a specific request, it is difficult for the Commissioners to determine how much additional funding should be considered.

The jail is facing a separate shortfall of approximately \$125,000. Captain Udischas reported that there are currently several very sick inmates who cannot simply be released and who require medical treatment and appointments, including trips to Columbus for specialized care. Commissioner Shryock expressed appreciation that the Sheriff's Office was bringing these concerns forward for discussion. When asked about the overall amount currently needed, Robin stated that the combined jail and Sheriff's Office needs were approximately \$283,000.

The Commissioners also discussed training and other funding sources. CPT training hours may be reimbursed quarterly through the Attorney General's Office. Captain Udischas noted that there are currently very few inmates from outside the County being housed in the jail, with approximately three at present. The Commissioners also discussed inmate funding. No inmate funding had been anticipated in the 2026 budget, but approximately \$90,000 is now available in that fund.

The Commissioners indicated that they would continue discussions regarding the requested funding with Robin and would review the department's needs in greater detail. Robin stated that further discussion would take place following the meeting. Commissioner Bigrigg also indicated that the Commissioners would discuss the matter and get back to the Sheriff's Office.

The Sheriff explained that without additional funding, layoffs could become necessary. He noted that the department cannot simply lay off one employee to reduce costs and that, in some circumstances, two positions would need to be eliminated to achieve the necessary savings. The discussion emphasized that the Sheriff's Office is attempting to reduce expenses where possible while maintaining staffing, officer safety, and necessary services. The Sheriff and his staff expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the budget concerns with the Commissioners in advance and to begin working together on potential solutions.

Mr. Lynn Powelson, EMA Director- Tornado Sirens

At 11:30 a.m., Lynn Powelson, EMA Director and Chief Rusty Dreher met with the Commissioners to discuss the County's tornado siren system. An issue occurred during the first Wednesday monthly siren test involving the 55 Tower. The service provider was contacted and completed repairs the previous week. In the interim, siren activation was routed through the City Fire Department.

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Mr. Lynn Powelson, EMA Director- Tornado Sirens, Continued

Chief Dreher explained that two tornado sirens are currently activated through the MARCS system, while the remaining sirens are activated through Tower 55. Chief Dreher would like to transition all County sirens to the MARCS system to improve reliability. During the recent failure, dispatchers attempted to troubleshoot the system remotely, and the sirens in Warsaw and West Lafayette had to be manually activated.

Mr. Powelson will provide a list of all tornado siren locations. Seven additional sirens would need to be evaluated for conversion to MARCS. The County will work with the appropriate departments to coordinate the transition and explore grant funding opportunities. The County would be responsible for converting three of the towers.

Chief Dreher explained that MARCS allows the sirens to be activated remotely by radio and utilizes paging talk groups that can activate multiple towers. If one tower is unavailable, another tower may be able to transmit the activation signal. Robin Schonauer, Budget Director asked about the anticipated cost. Chief Dreher stated that an estimate was not yet available and that he would begin working on obtaining a cost estimate.

The Commissioners also discussed the importance of the CodeRED emergency notification system. Approximately 8,000 to 9,000 residents are currently registered, compared to approximately 33,000 residents in the County. Residents must register individually for CodeRED notifications. The Commissioners agreed that the County should continue encouraging residents to sign up for the system.

Commissioner Bigrigg stated that an estimated cost for the MARCS conversion is needed before proceeding. The Commissioners indicated they would continue discussions regarding the project and potential funding.

Mary Beck, County Administrator/Project Manager Updates

County Administrator Mary Beck provided several updates to the Commissioners. Kevin Fry will be working on the grass along Chestnut Street for one to two days to reseed the area, weather permitting. Cox's will also return to reseed areas that were addressed earlier this spring.

Ms. Beck reported that the Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Veterans Plaza. Railings for CR 1A will be installed this week along the walkway side.

Ms. Beck also provided an update regarding the crosswalk. She contacted K&K Systems to inspect the existing equipment and work with Ike by phone to complete a repair. An estimate is also being obtained for an additional crosswalk sign in the area.

Ms. Beck reported that all of the locks at SKIP's are currently working properly. Additional improvements are being considered, including installation of a hard-wired Spectrum line and boring under the roadway to allow cameras to be installed on the side near the Skelley property. Dave Wagner is obtaining estimates for the proposed work.

Ms. Beck received an email from the Adult Probation Officer regarding rainwater entering the basement. The office has been making short-term repairs rather than addressing the underlying issue. Ms. Beck will inspect the area to determine the cause of the problem.

Ms. Beck reported that Mindy Brems sent information regarding an Appalachian Heritage Success Stories nomination form. Commissioner Bigrigg will speak with Ms. Brems about the nomination and report back to Ms. Beck.

Ms. Beck also met with Pat Kelley regarding costs for work in the Soil and Water areas at the County Service Building. She is also obtaining an estimate for an electrical upgrade at the Courthouse.

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Meetings Attended

Commissioner Shryock had informational meetings at the Sheriff's Office and the Prosecutor's Office regarding open work tickers on both Thursday and Friday of last week. Commissioner Fischer attended the Airport Board Meeting on Thursday, September 17th, later on that evening he attended the Coshocton in Bloom Reception and on Friday evening, September 18th he went to the Township Banquet. Commissioner Bigrigg had a meeting on Wednesday afternoon with Chief Joe Hunt and Assistant Chief Kayla Wright, he also attended the Township Banquet on Friday evening, September 18th.

Adjourn

Mr. Bigrigg adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.



Robert W. Bigrigg

Absent

Dane R. Shryock


Gary L. Fischer

Gary L. Fischer

Blake Averson

Clerk